

#### **ARSET**

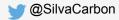
Applied Remote Sensing Training

http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov

@NASAARSET

#### SilvaCarbon

http://egsc.usgs.gov/silvacarbon/index.html



# Remote sensing of forest cover and change assessment for carbon monitoring

Instructors: Cindy Schmidt and Amber McCullum

Week 2: June 16, 2016

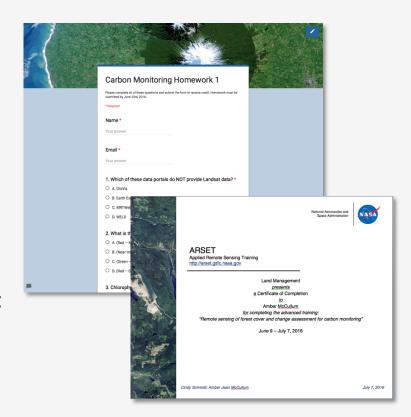


# Course Structure

- One lecture per week every Thursday from June 9 to July 7 at 1:00-2:30pm and 10:00-11:30pm EDT(-04:00 UTC)
- Please only sign up for and attend the same session each week
  - Lectures
  - Q&A
  - Homework exercises
- Webinar recordings, PowerPoint presentations, in-class exercises, and homework assignments can be found after each session at:
  - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/ecoforecasting/webinars/carbon-monitoring-2016
  - Q&A: Following each lecture and/or by email (<u>cynthia.l.schmidt@nasa.gov</u>) or (<u>amberjean.mccullum@nasa.gov</u>)

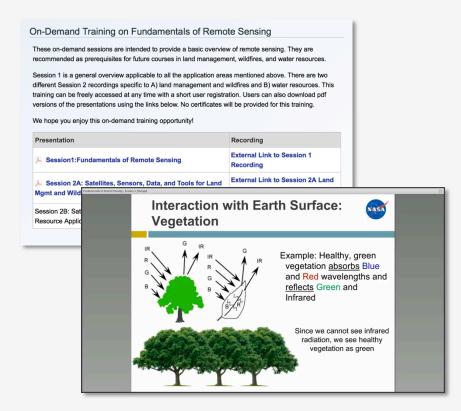
# Homework and Certificates

- Homework
  - Answers must be submitted via Google Form
- Certificate of Completion:
  - Attend all 5 webinars
  - Complete all 5 homework assignments by the deadline (access from ARSET website above)
    - Week 2 HW Deadline: June 30th
  - You will receive certificates approximately 2 months after the completion of the course from: marines.martins@ssaihq.com



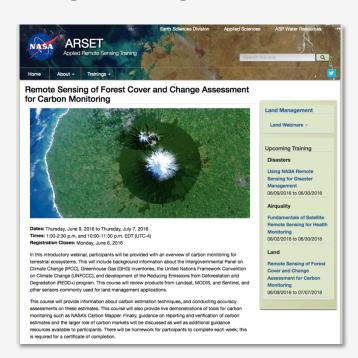
## Prerequisite

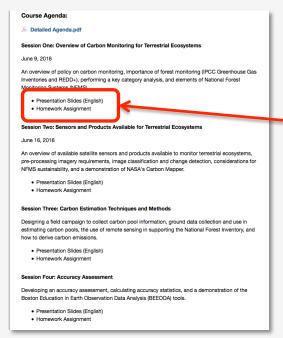
- Fundamentals of Remote Sensing
  - Sessions 1 and 2A (Land)
  - On-demand webinar available anytime
  - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/webinars/ fundamentals-remote-sensing



## **Accessing Course Materials**

### https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/land/webinars/carbon-monitoring-2016



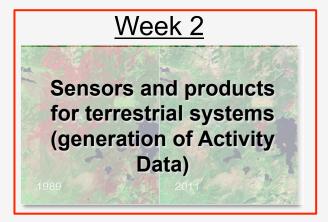


Course
materials are
provided here
using each
specified link
and will be
active after
each week

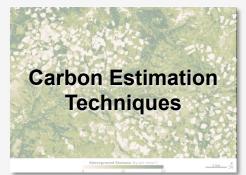
## **Course Outline**

Week 1

Overview of Carbon Monitoring



Week 3



Week 4

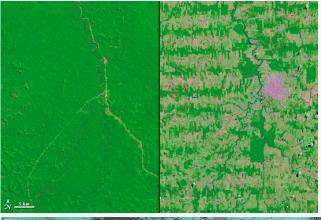


Week 5

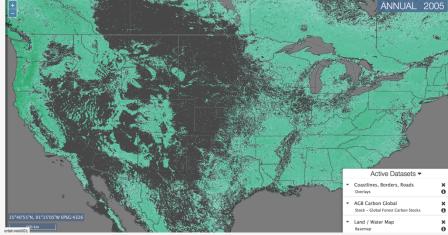


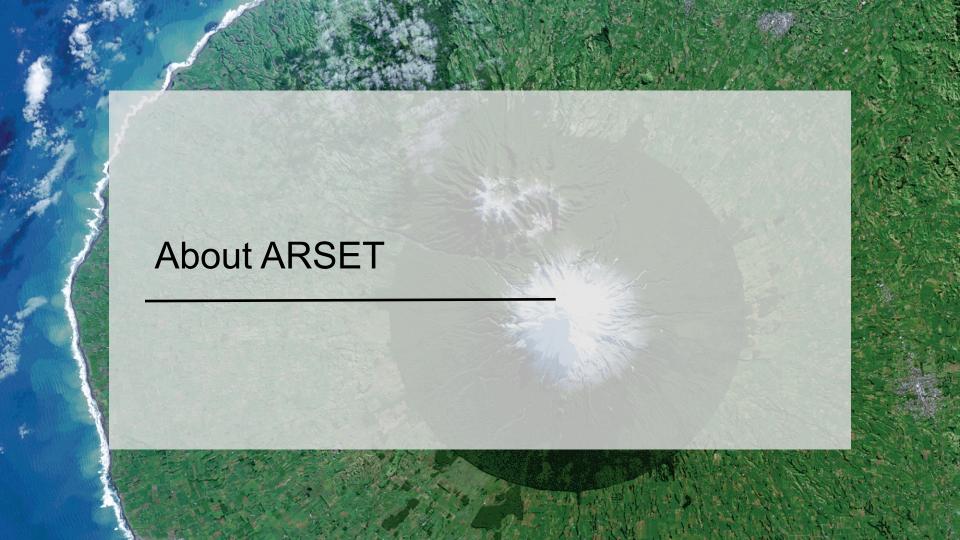
## Week 2 Agenda

- About ARSET
- What is Activity Data?
- Remote sensing data sources
- Pre-processing image requirements
- Image classification and change detection
- Considerations for National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) sustainability
- NASA's Carbon Mapper
- Q&A



(Left)
Deforestation in
Brazil as shown by
Landsat images
from 1975 and
2012. Credit: Earth
Observatory.
(Below) NASA's
Carbon Mapper





## Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET)

http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov

Training activities for environmental professionals to increase usage of NASA observational and modeling data for decision-making support.



#### **Online Webinars**

- 1 hr a week, 4-6 weeks
- Live & recorded
- Include demos on data access



### **In-person Workshops**

- Held in a computer lab for 2 - 4 days
- Focus on data access
- Locally relevant case studies



#### **Train the Trainers**

 Courses & training manuals for those interested in doing their own remote sensing trainings

## Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET)

http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov

Provide online and on-site trainings tailored to:

- policy makers
- regulatory agencies
- applied environmental professionals

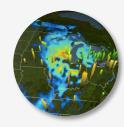
to increase the use of NASA Earth Science models & data for environmental applications:



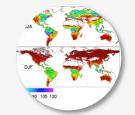
**Disasters** 



Ecoforecasting



Health & Air Quality



Water Resources



Wildfires

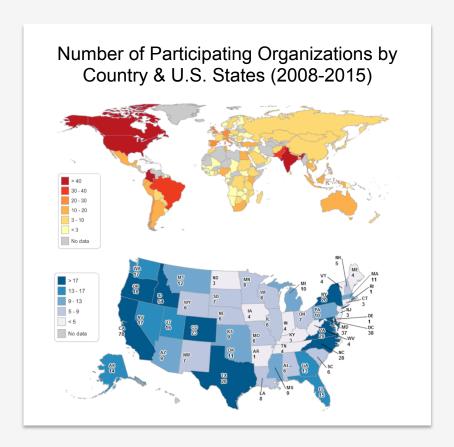
## **ARSET Trainings**

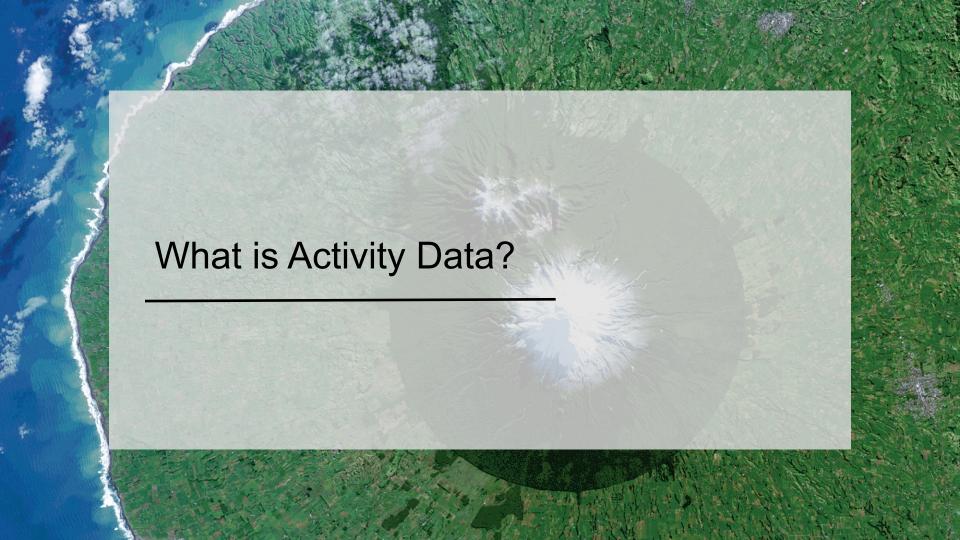
## Impact & Accomplishments

- 68 Trainings Completed
- 4,900+ participants worldwide from:
  - 1,600+ organizations
  - 130+ countries
- More participants trained in 2015 than all previous years combined

"The greatest benefit [of this training] is knowing where to find and access remote sensing data concerning vegetation cover and basic tools for analyzing habitat trends and characterizing rate of change."

U.S. Federal Government Employee,
 2016 Advanced NDVI webinar





## What is Activity Data?

- IPCC guidelines refer to two basic inputs for calculating greenhouse gas inventories: activity data and emission factors
- Encourage spatially explicit land conversion information, derived from sampling or wall-to-wall mapping techniques
  - Examples of Activity Data include areas transferred from forest to other land uses
- Estimates are generally derived from maps produced using remote sensing
  - Especially good for tropical countries where accessibility to forested areas may be limited

## **Activity Data**

Key role for Earth observations in monitoring forests

- Fundamental requirement of national monitoring systems are that they:
  - Measure changes throughout all forested area
  - Use consistent methodologies at repeated intervals to obtain accurate results
  - Verify results with ground-based or very high resolution observations
- Remote sensing data supported by ground-based observations is the only practical solution to implement for inaccessible forest areas

## **Activity Data**

## Requirements for REDD+ Activities

- Areas of different forest types
- Annual conversion from forest to nonforest land uses
- Annual transfer from one forest type to another
- Annual conversion from non-forest land uses to planted or other forest

Example of (A) conversion from forest to non-forest: Small subsistence plots in Central Africa replace once-forested hillsides; (B) conversion of one forest type to another: Palm oil plantations in Indonesia replace primary forests

B



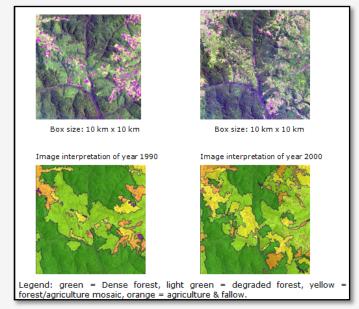


Source: earthobservatory.nasa.gov

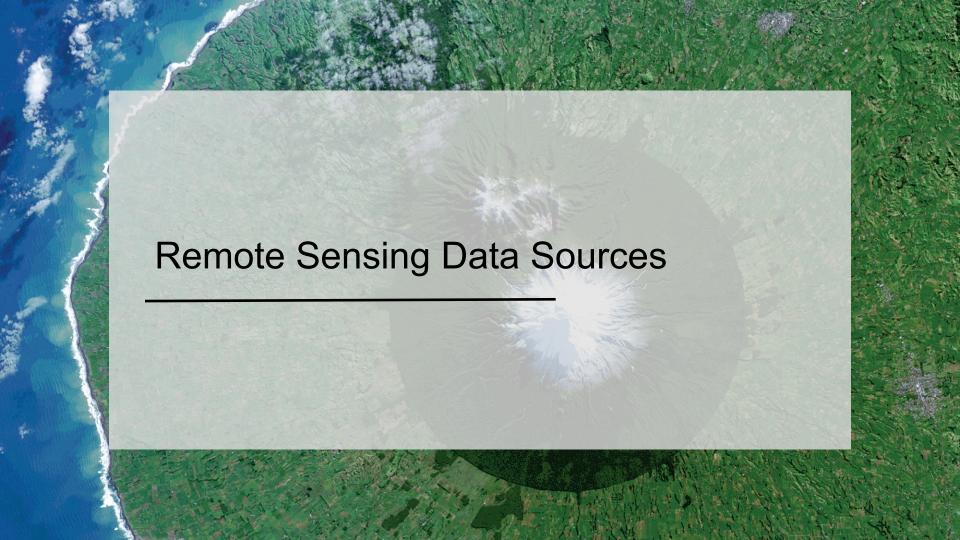
## **Activity Data**

### Recommended remote sensing map products

- Forest/non-forest map (+ change maps)
- Forest Stratification
- Comprehensive land use maps (+ change)
- Change within forest land



Landcover maps derived from Landsat for an area in the Congo Basin. Source: GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook 2014



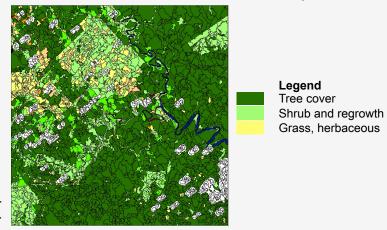
# Remote Sensing Data Sources Overview

- Coarse spatial resolution (optical)
- Medium spatial resolution (optical)
- High spatial resolution (optical)
- Synthetic Aperture Radar
- LiDAR

#### **MODIS Land Cover Map**



Landsat Land Cover Map



Sources: USGS 2015, GLS dataset; Bodart et al. 2011; and Raši et al. 2011.

### Remote Sensing Data Sources

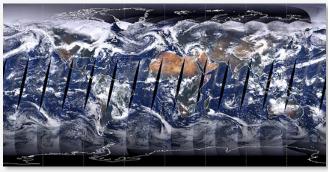
#### Considerations

- What geographical, phenological, and atmospheric (especially persistent cloud cover) conditions exist?
- What are the spectral regions, and bands within them, and how do these relate to the potential for distinguishing the land-cover types of interest, and changes among them?
- What is the spatial resolution of the data and how appropriate is it, relative to the scale of the land-cover changes to monitor?
- What is the temporal resolution in terms of potential frequency of acquisition of non-cloudy observations compared to the desired frequency of monitoring?
- What is the longevity of the image archive length does this meet the historical mapping needs?
- What are the cost implications of these data in terms of purchase and analysis?
- What are the future satellite development and launch commitments?

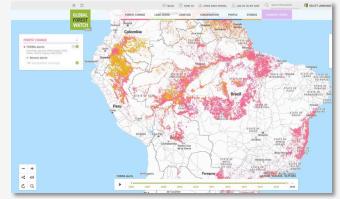
## Remote Sensing Data Sources

Coarse Spatial Resolution (Optical)

- Greater than 250m
- Ex: MODIS, CBERS-2
- High temporal resolution useful for early warning and detection of forest clearing and degradation
- Example: FORMA
  - a monitoring system that issues monthly forest loss alerts for the humid tropics.
  - Generates alerts of likely forest clearing activity every 16 days at 500 m spatial resolution (Hammer et al. 2014)



NASA Worldview

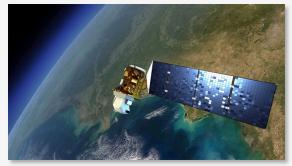


FORMA Alerts from Global Forest Watch

# Remote Sensing Data Sources Medium Spatial Resolution (Optical)

- 10m 80m spatial resolution
- Most common: Landsat (30m) and more recently, Sentinel 2
- Benefits:
  - Historical archive (early 1980s)
  - Easily accessible and freely available
  - Global coverage
- Limitations: Areas of persistent cloud cover
- Example: Global Forest Watch (Hansen et al. 2013)

#### Landsat satellite



Credit: NASA

#### **Global Forest Watch**



## Remote Sensing Data Sources

High Spatial Resolution (Optical)

- Better than 10m spatial resolution
- Examples: Worldview 2 and 3
- Primarily used for accuracy assessment, sampling transects, or hot spot assessment
- Benefits
  - Forest activity data can be monitored more accurately and with greater differentiation
- Limitations
  - Higher acquisition and processing costs
  - Spatial and temporal coverage may not be adequate

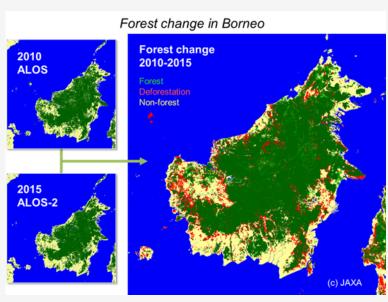




Nilo Forest Reserve, Tanzania. Credit: Digital Globe and Norsk Regnesentral

# Remote Sensing Data Sources Synthetic Aperture Radar

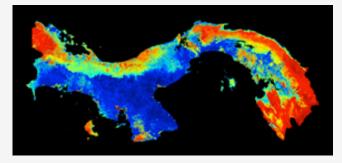
- Two types: C-band and X-band SAR (shorter wavelengths) and L-band SAR (longer wavelengths)
- Can detect forest/non-forest and changes
- Benefits:
  - Useful in areas of persistent cloud cover
  - Can provide information on forest structure;
     complementary to optical data
- Limitations:
  - Difficult to process
  - Not currently used operationally



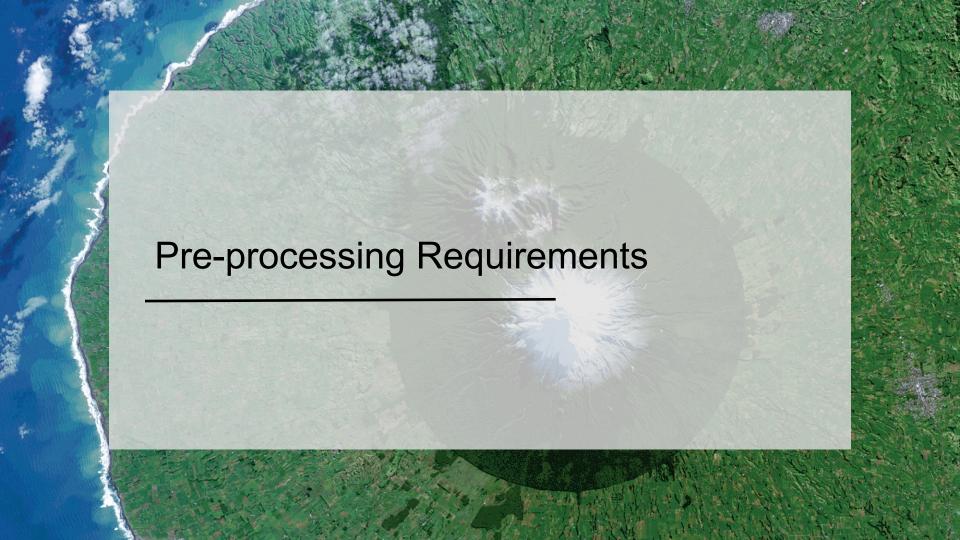
Forest change in Borneo (Masanobu et al. 2014)

# Remote Sensing Data Sources Lidar

- Provides information on forest structure (e.g. tree height, canopy volume) and biomass
- Currently acquired using aircraft platform no operational LiDAR satellites
- Benefits
  - Provides detailed information of forest structure
  - Verification of biomass estimates, reduces need for ground sampling
- Limitations
  - Expensive to acquire & process



National carbon map of Panama by integrating field data with satellite imagery and LiDAR (Carnegie Institution, 2013). Credit: Carnegie Institution.



#### Overview

- Necessary because it allows satellite observations over different time periods to be compared to each other
- Geometric Corrections (orthorectification)
  - Corrects for angle of view of the satellite sensor
  - Corrects for high relief terrain
- Radiometric corrections
  - Corrects for different atmospheric conditions between multi temporal images
- Satellite imagery is often available with both corrections

#### Geometric Correction

- Most important for detecting change over time using multi-temporal satellite imagery
- Image alignment
  - Images need to be aligned
  - Can be done using image processing software (i.e. ERDAS imagine, ENVI, etc.)
- Image distortion due to scanning system motion, platform instability, or high relief terrain
  - More apparent in aerial photographs than in satellite imagery
  - Use of a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) required for correction
  - Needs specialized software
- Most satellite imagery has been geometrically corrected and projected to a geographic reference system. It is always good to check.

### **Radiometric Correction**

- The pixel values of a single date image are dependent on the viewing geometry of the satellite, the location of the sun and specific weather and atmospheric conditions.
- Radiometric correction enables comparison of one image to another (of multiple images for large regions and for multi-date images of the same region)
- "Raw" pixel values are converted to <u>surface reflectance</u> using various methods but satellite imagery (Landsat, MODIS) can now be acquired already corrected.







Subsets of a Landsat image displaying (A) natural color; (B) top-of-atmosphere correction; and (C) surface reflectance. Credit: USGS

# Satellite Data Pre-Processing Landsat Surface Reflectance Products

- Surface Reflectance products generated from the Landsat Ecosystem Disturbance Adaptive Processing System (LEDAPS)
  - Originally developed by NASA
- Available from EarthExplorer:
  - http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov



Landsat 4-7 and 8 Surface Reflectance Products Available from EarthExplorer

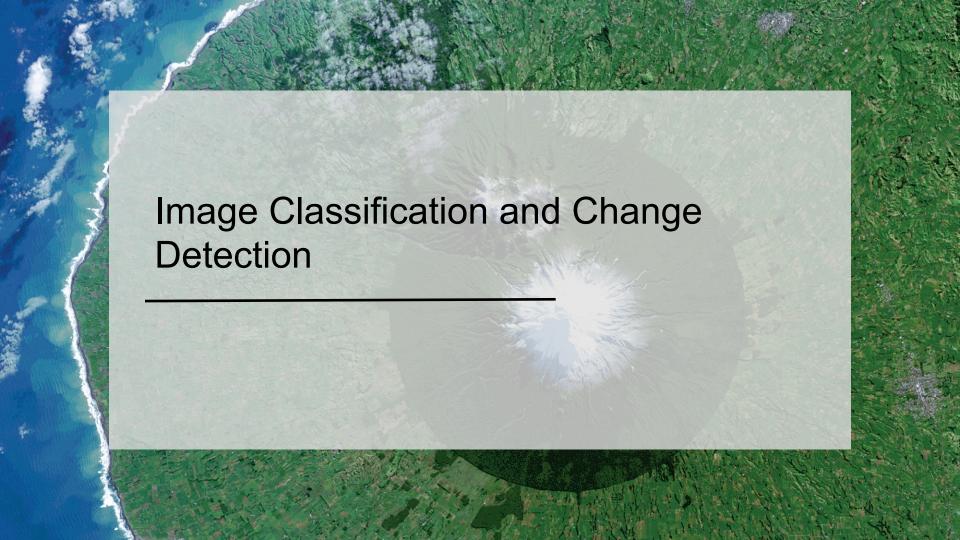
### Landsat Surface Reflectance Products Caveats

- Products considered provisional
- Landsat 7 images not gap-filled
- Usefulness of surface reflectance products reduced in:
  - Hyper-arid or snow-covered regions
  - Low sun angle conditions
  - Coastal regions
  - Areas with extensive clouds
- Panchromatic band (ETM+ Band 8) not processed
- Specific date ranges: Landsat 4, 5, 7





Example of the unprocessed Landsat image (top) and the LEDAPS processed Landsat image (right). Credit: USGS



## Image Classification

#### Overview

- Used for mapping forest/non-forest, land cover, or forest stratification
- There are many methods: visual interpretation, pixel-based (supervised, unsupervised), and object-based
- For improved results, often needs ground and/or other ancillary information (topographic or climatic data)
- Needs specialized software (commercial or open source) and training

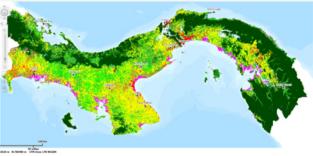


## Image Classification

## Land Cover Classes

- The image classification processes turns data (pixel values) into information
- That information must be categorized (e.g. forest/non-forest)
- The IPCC Good Practice Guide for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (GPG-LULUCF 2003) specifies top-level categories as:
  - Forest Land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements, and Other Land
- Defining classes will depend on the project/program needs and the region





Land cover map of Panama. Credit: ANAM.

# Image Classification Types of Maps

Map products/ classification system	Purpose	Description	Minimum Mapping Unit	Temporal Product Frequency
Forest/Non- Forest	Trend analysis, basis for other products	Extent of all forest types	< 0.5 ha	Annual
Forest Stratification	Provide consistency in biomass density with a stratum for more accurate estimates	Suggested primary stratification: primary forest, modified natural forest, planted forest	< 0.5 ha	Annual
All Land-Use Categories	National baseline mapping	Consider using the UN-FAO Land Cover Classification System	< 0.5 ha	Annual

## **Image Classification**

# Summary of types of remote sensing data and their perceived operational status in estimating REDD+ activities

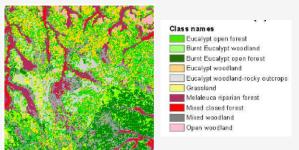
Map Product	Coarse resolution	Medium resolution	High resolution	L-band radar	C-band radar	X-band radar	LiDAR
Forest/Non- forest		Operational	Operational	Operational	R&D	Not used	Occasional use
Forest Stratification	Operational	Operational	Operational	Pre- Operational	R&D	Not used	Occasional use
All land use categories		Operational	Operational	Pre- Operational	R&D	Not used	Occasional use

## Image Classification

### **Approaches**

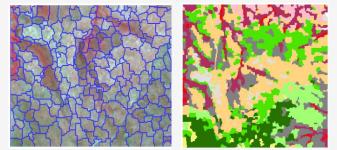
#### Pixel-based

- Each pixel is grouped into a class
- Useful where there are multiple changes in land use within a short period of time
- Best suited when there is complete data coverage and require methods to ensure time series consistency at the pixel level



### **Object-based**

- Pixels with common spectral characteristics are first grouped together (segmentation)
- Useful for reducing speckle noise in radar images
- Useful for high spatial resolution imagery



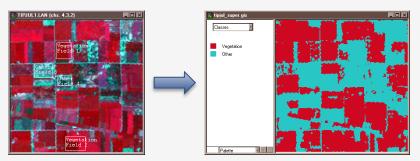
Whiteside et al., (2005), A Comparison of Object-Oriented and Pixel-Based Classification Methods for Mapping Land Cover in Northern Australia

#### Image Classification

#### Methods

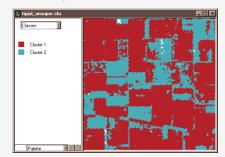
#### **Supervised**

- Uses expert-defined areas of known vegetation types (training areas) to tune parameters of classification algorithms
- Algorithm then automatically identifies and labels areas similar to the training data.



#### Unsupervised

- Uses classification algorithms to assign pixels into one of a number of userspecified class groupings
- Interpreters assign each of the groupings of pixels a value corresponding to a land cover class

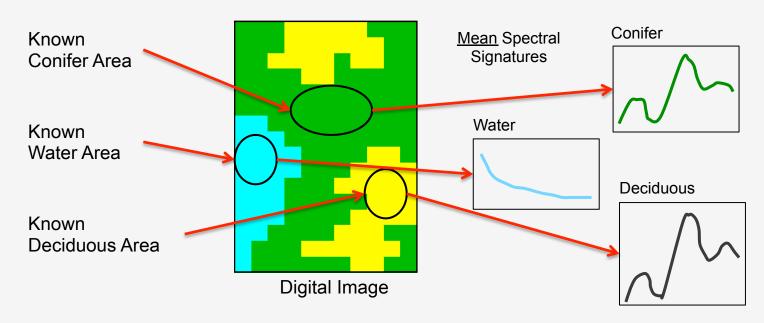


Credit: David DiBiase, Penn State Department of Geography

### Image Classification

#### Supervised Method

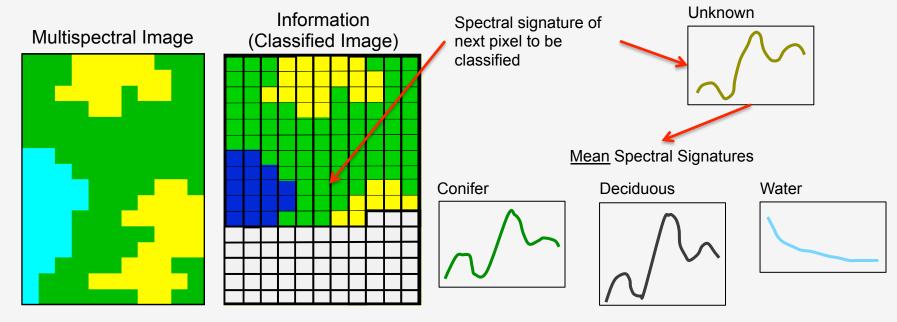
Supervised classification requires the analyst to select training areas where they know what is on the ground and then digitizes a polygon within that area



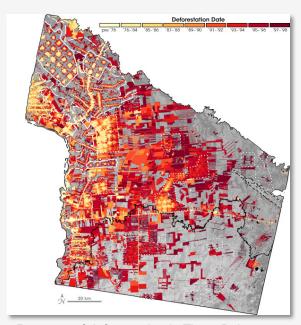
# Image Classification

#### Supervised Method

The spectral signature of each pixel in the image gets matched with the training signatures and the image is classified accordingly

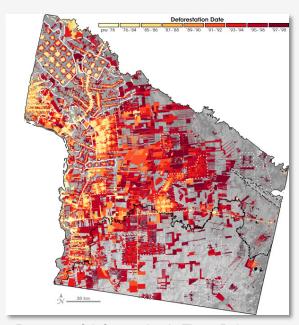


- Activities that cause degradation of carbon stocks within forests and are detectable by satellite imagery
  - tree harvesting (legal and illegal)
  - fire
- Recommend using Landsat-type data for monitoring forest cover changes every 5 to 10 years; although new automated techniques enable annual change detection.
- Many different methods:
  - Visual interpretation
  - Multi-date image segmentation
  - Digital classification techniques
  - Pixel trajectory techniques



Progress of deforestation in Tierra Bajas, Bolivia. Areas deforested before 1976 are yellow, while areas cleared from 1997-98 are dark red.

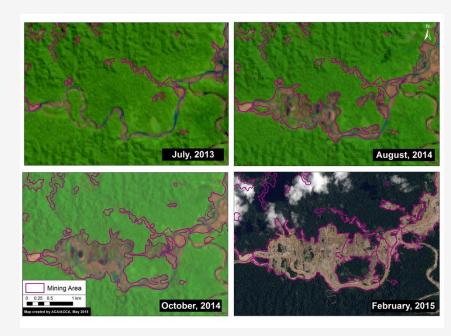
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Progress of deforestation in Tierra Bajas, Bolivia. Areas deforested before 1976 are yellow, while areas cleared from 1997-98 are dark red.

Methods: Visual Interpretation

- Visual interpretation involves the delineation of change on a computer screen (rather than a paper map)
- This allows production of results that are automatically in digital form
- This method works best if image analysis tools and experiences are limited

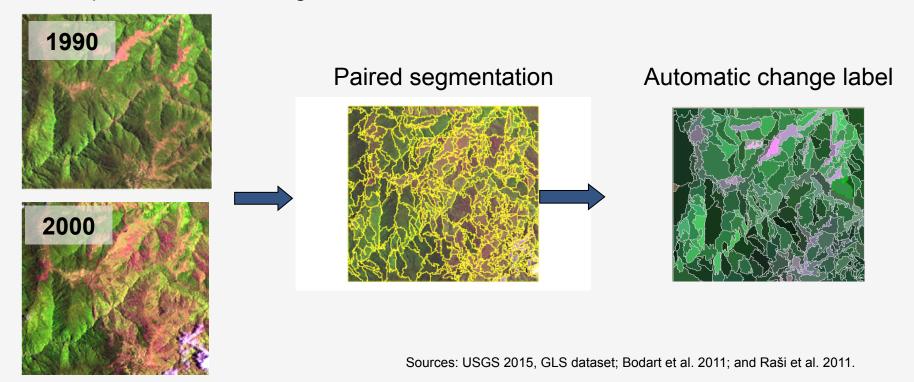


Deforestation along the Upper Malinowski in Peru due to mining from Landsat and SPOT 7. Credit: Amazon Conservation Association

Methods: Multi-date image segmentation

- Automated segmentation reduces processing time and increases detail
- It is objective and repeatable
- It delineates changed areas as separate segments
- Ideally, analysis process would include:
  - Multidate image segmentation on image pairs
  - Training area/class signature selection
  - Supervised clustering of individual images
  - Visual verification and potential editing

#### Example of multi-date segmentation



#### Digital Classification of Image Segments

- Two supervised object classifications run separately on the two multi-date images are recommended instead of a single supervised object classification on the image pair.
- A common predefined standard training data set of spectral signatures for each type of ecosystem should ideally be used to create initial automated forest maps.
- Supervised classification approaches are considered more efficient in the case of a large number of images than unsupervised clustering techniques.





- (A) Multi-temporal segmentation from two images: 2000-2010
- (B) Classification of the year 2000 image based on the supervised signatures.

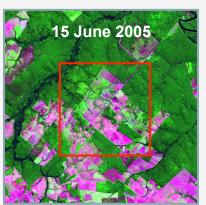
Sources: USGS 2015, GLS dataset; Bodart et al. 2011; and Raši et al. 2011

# Legend Tree cover Shrub and regrowth Grass, herbaceous

#### Example of multi-date segmentation approach: Brazil forest cover

Landsat-5 TM imagery

6 August 2001



Land cover maps of 2001 to 2005







Sources: USGS 2015, GLS dataset; Eva et al. 2012.



# **National Forest Monitoring System**

#### **Sustainability Considerations**

- Longevity of satellite mission providing data underlying Activity Data generation and future sensor launch and data acquisition strategy
  - Example: Landsat continuity
- Consistency of methods used to produce Activity Data
- Plans for archiving imagery and data prodcuts for transparency

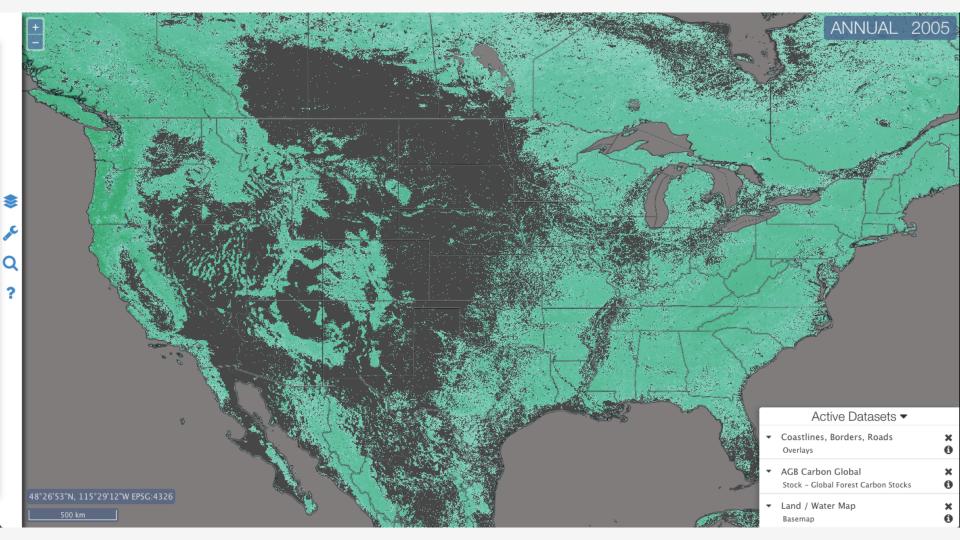


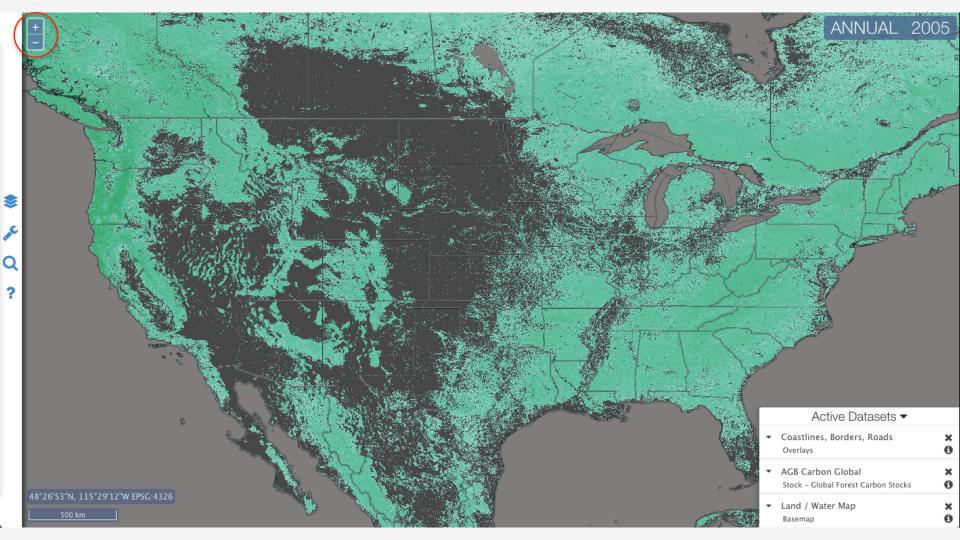
# NASA's Carbon Mapper

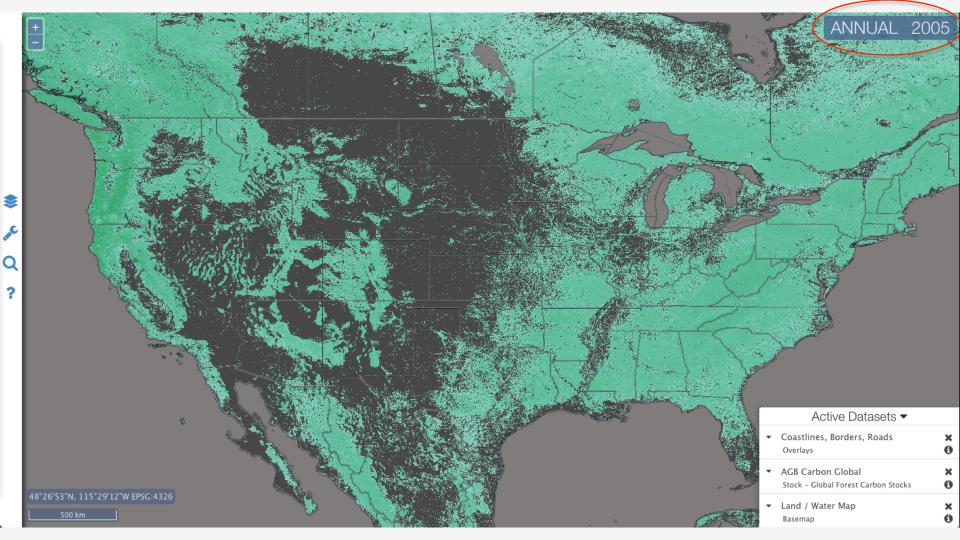
- Developed by NASA's Carbon Monitoring System (CMS)
- Beta version
- Common platform for visualizing carbon globally
- Features
  - Mapping and data visualizations
  - Regional carbon summaries
  - Time series plots of carbon flux and stocks
- Website: https://cmsun.jpl.nasa.gov

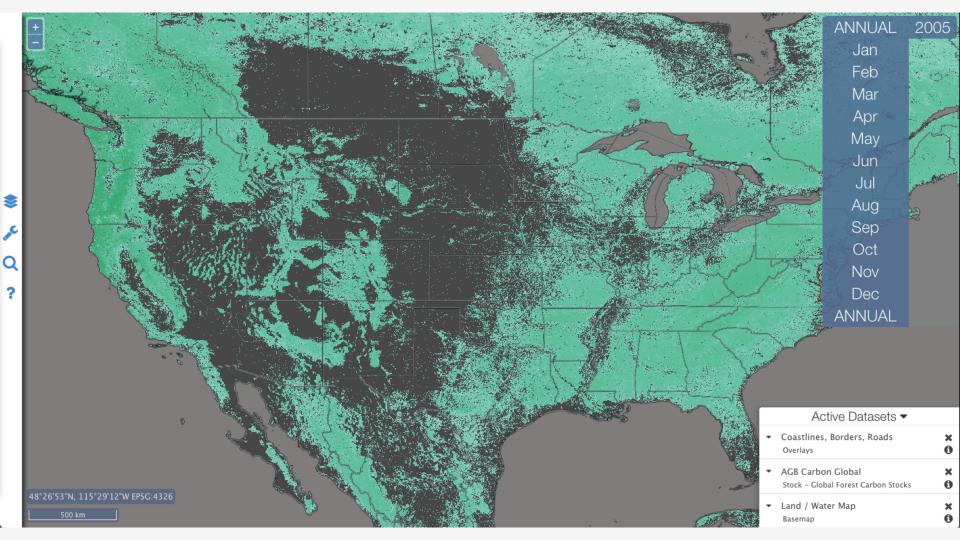
# Carbon Mapperbeta

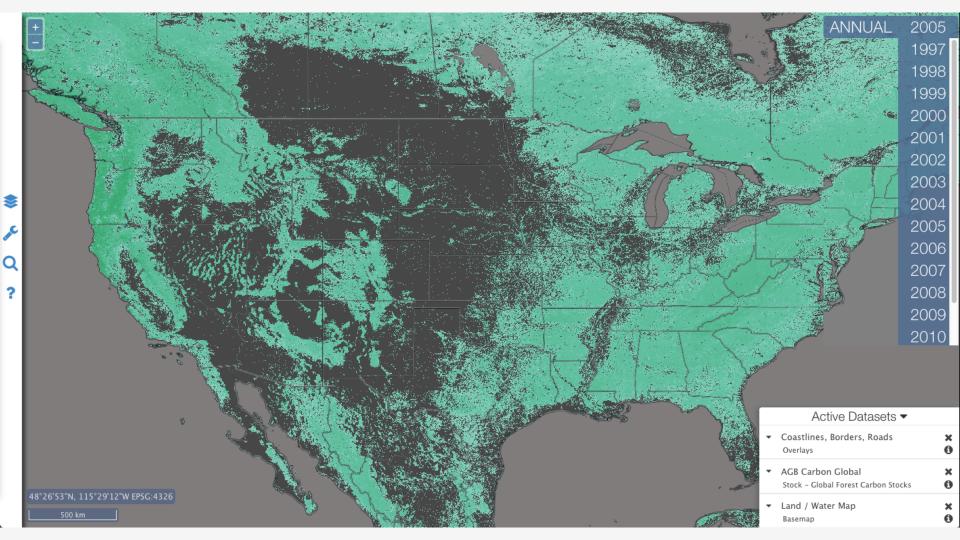
Start Exploring

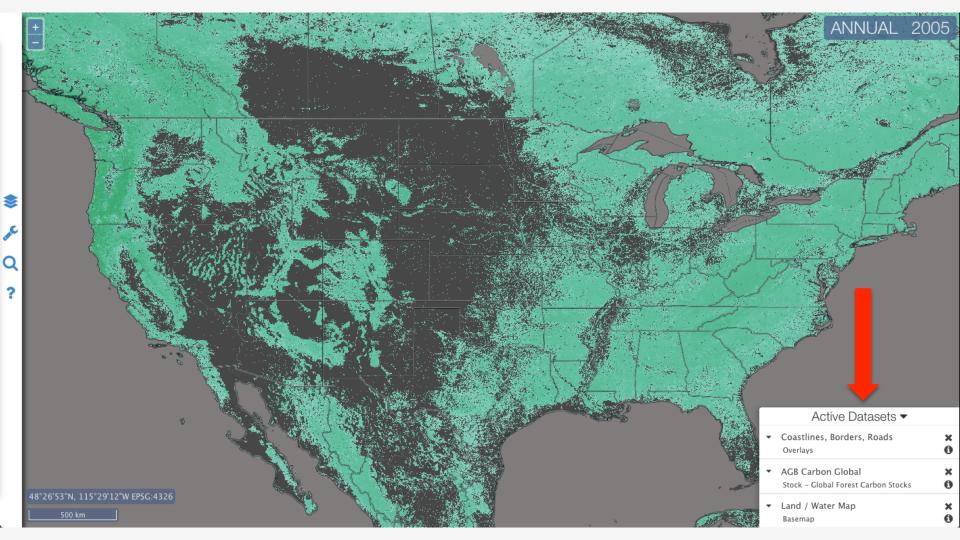


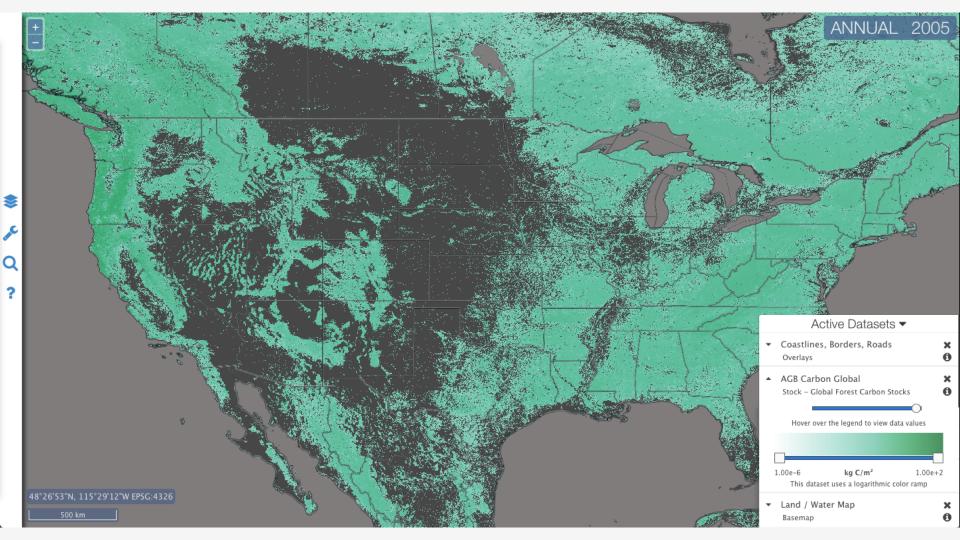












#### Global Forest Carbon Stocks

Version

CMS Phase 2 Biomass Pilot - August 2015

Principal Investigator

Sassan Saatchi, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

URL

http://carbon.jpl.nasa.gov/

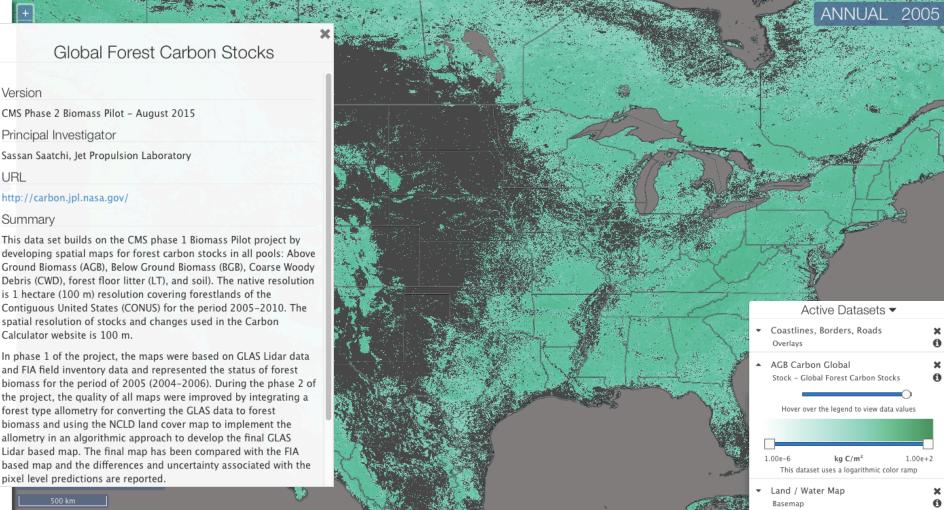
Summary

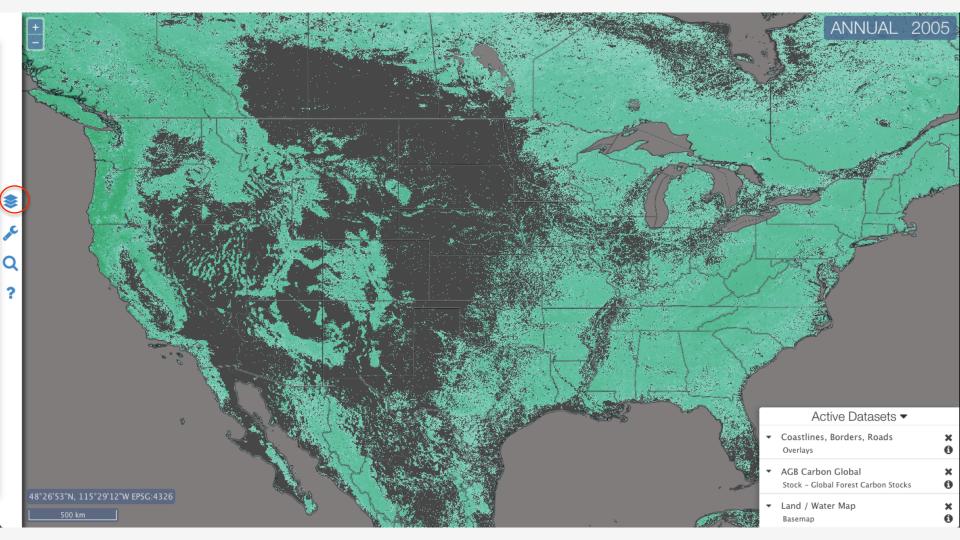
developing spatial maps for forest carbon stocks in all pools: Above Ground Biomass (AGB), Below Ground Biomass (BGB), Coarse Woody Debris (CWD), forest floor litter (LT), and soil). The native resolution is 1 hectare (100 m) resolution covering forestlands of the Contiguous United States (CONUS) for the period 2005-2010. The spatial resolution of stocks and changes used in the Carbon Calculator website is 100 m.

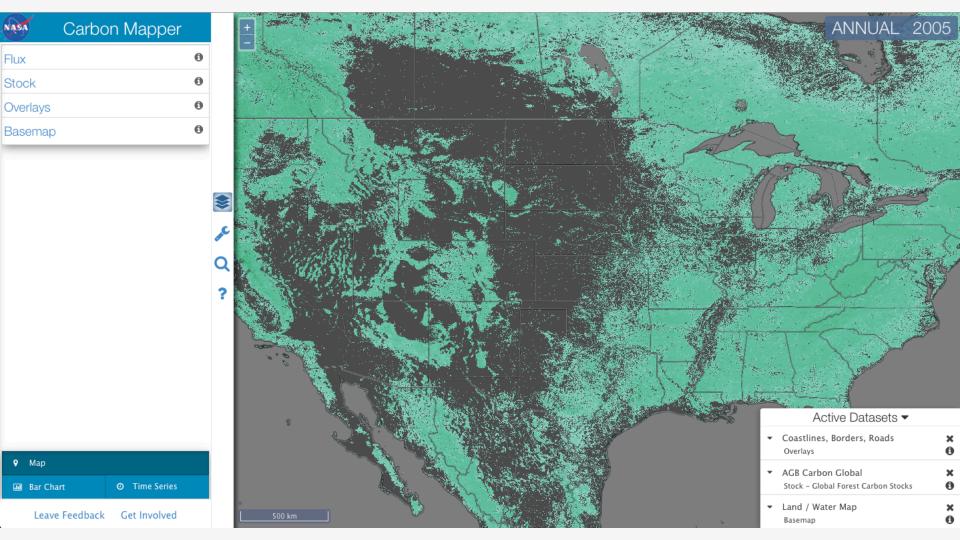
This data set builds on the CMS phase 1 Biomass Pilot project by

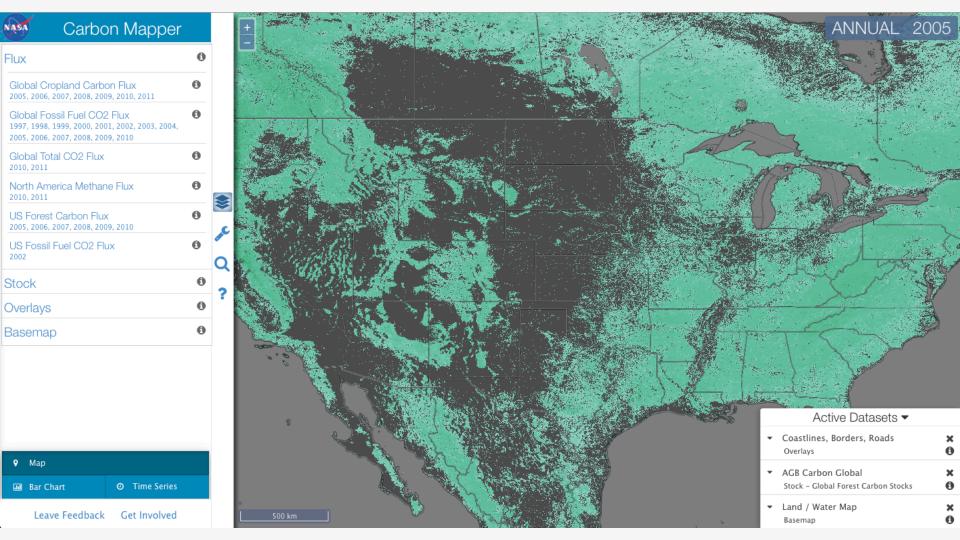
biomass for the period of 2005 (2004-2006). During the phase 2 of the project, the quality of all maps were improved by integrating a forest type allometry for converting the GLAS data to forest biomass and using the NCLD land cover map to implement the allometry in an algorithmic approach to develop the final GLAS Lidar based map. The final map has been compared with the FIA based map and the differences and uncertainty associated with the pixel level predictions are reported.

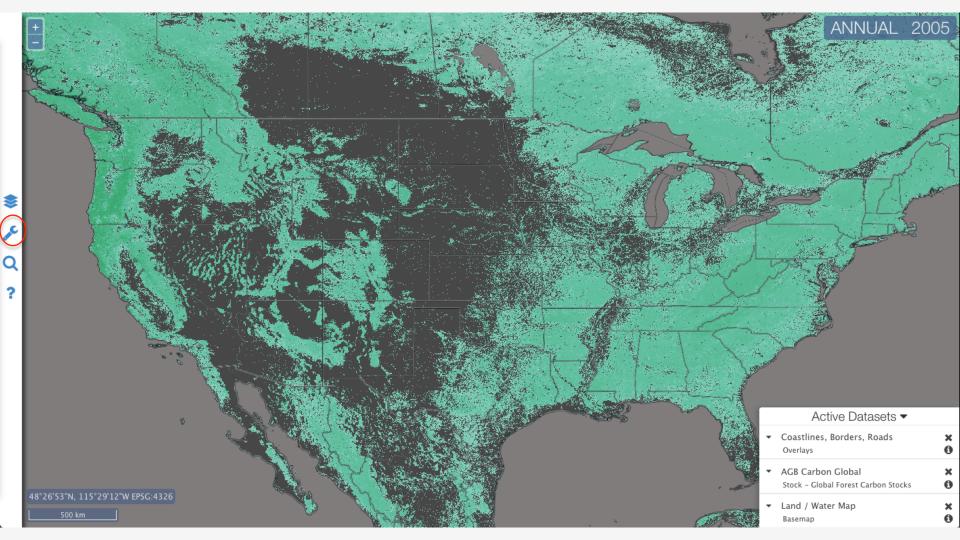
and FIA field inventory data and represented the status of forest

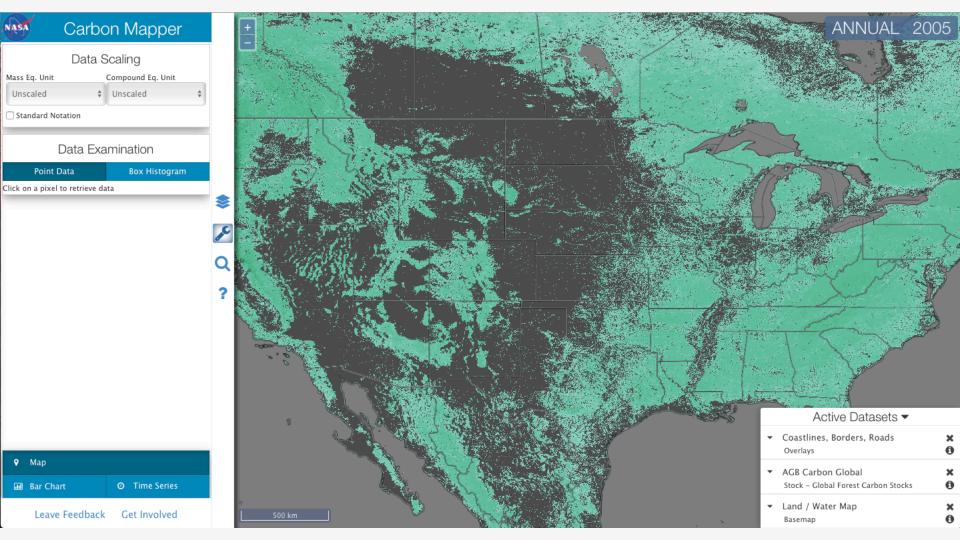


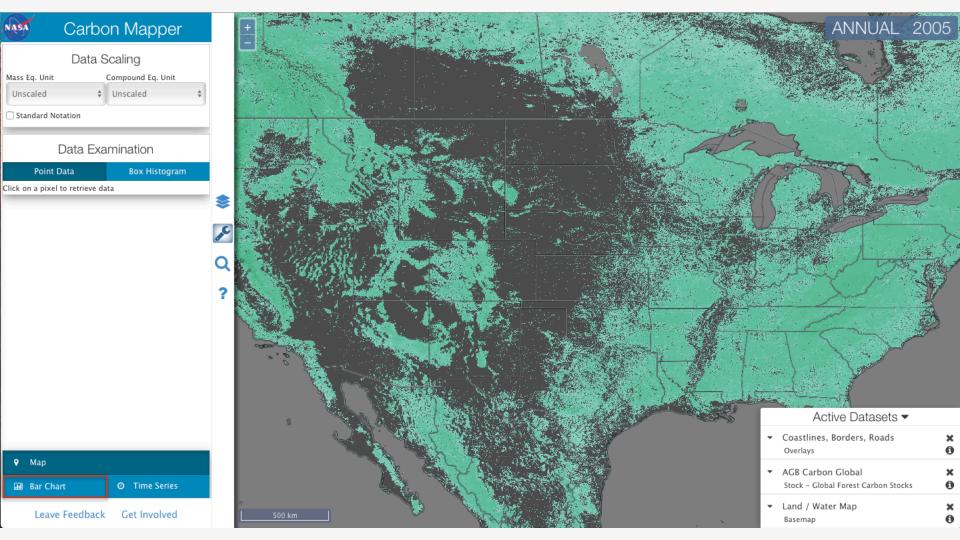


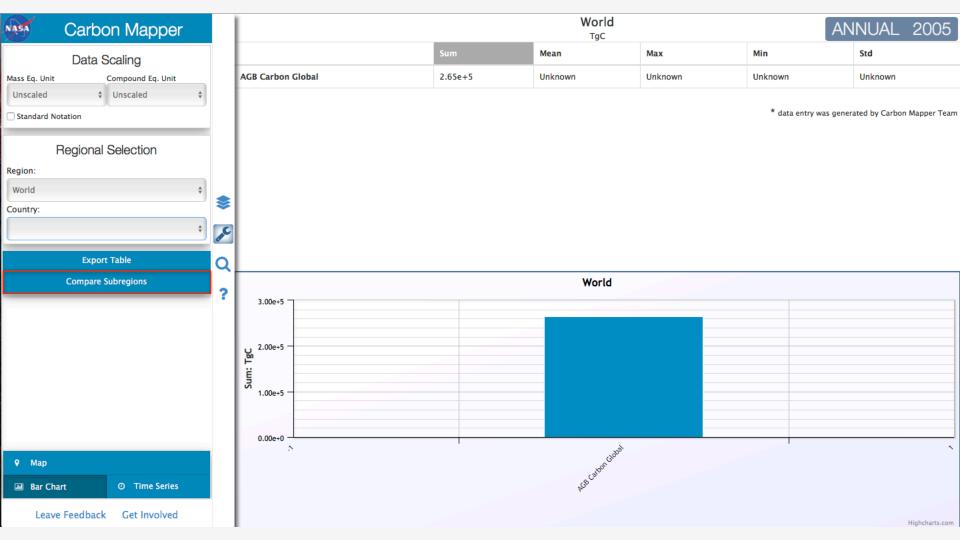


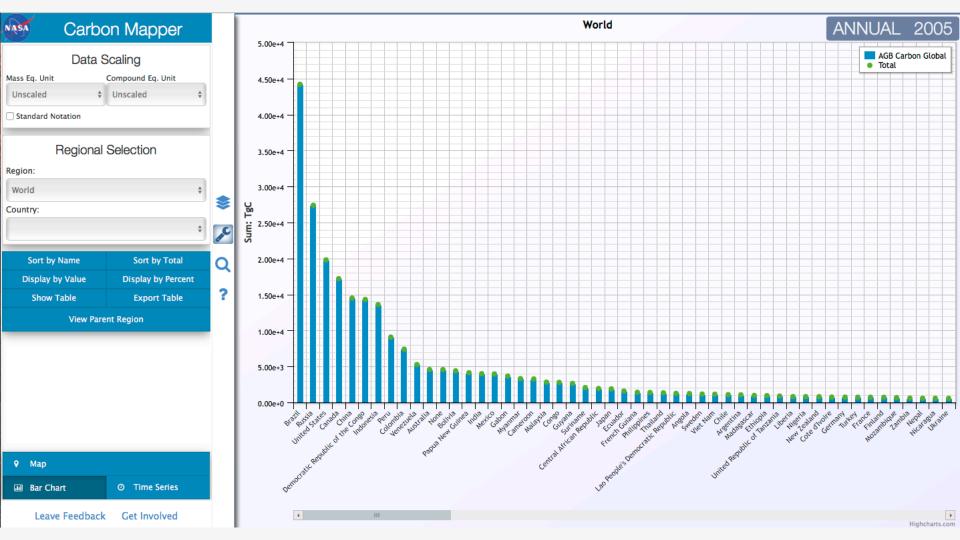


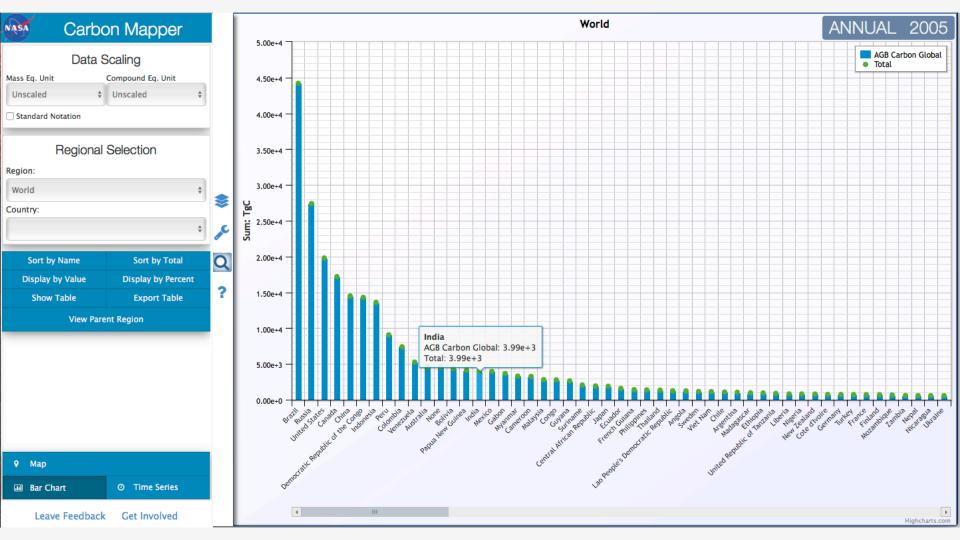


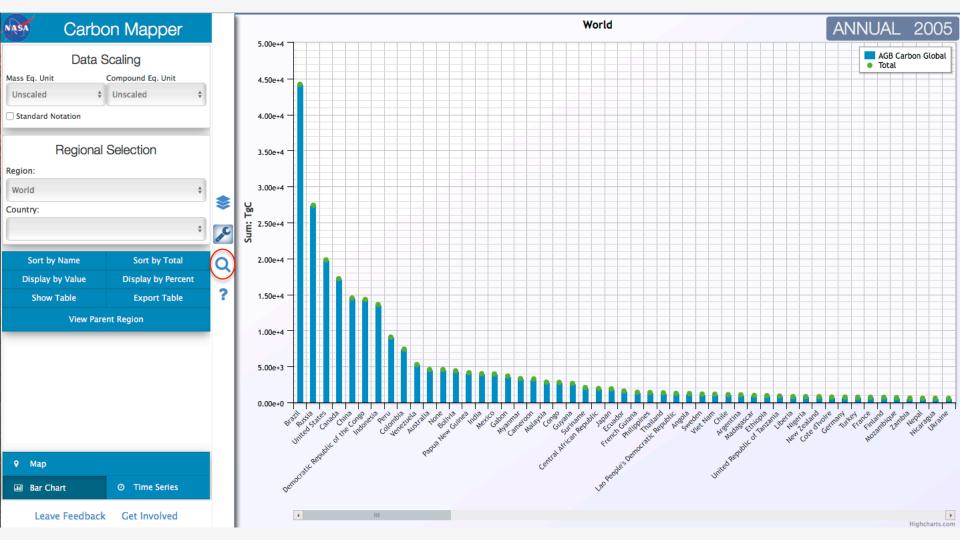


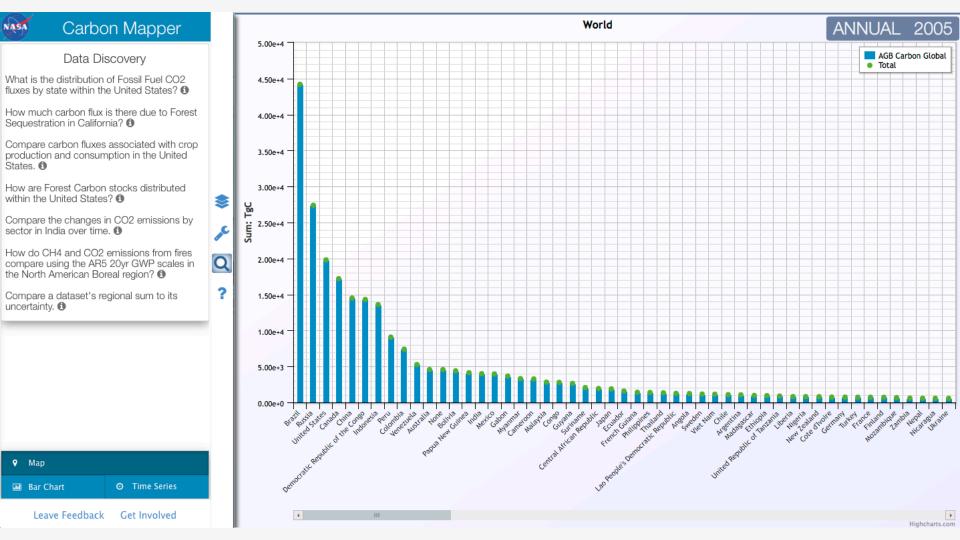


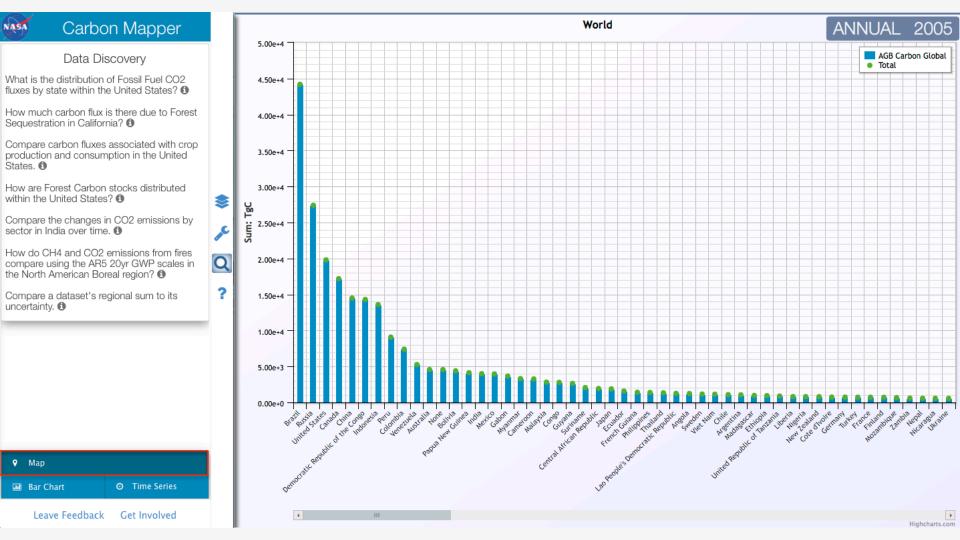






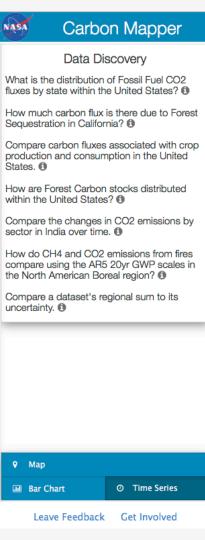


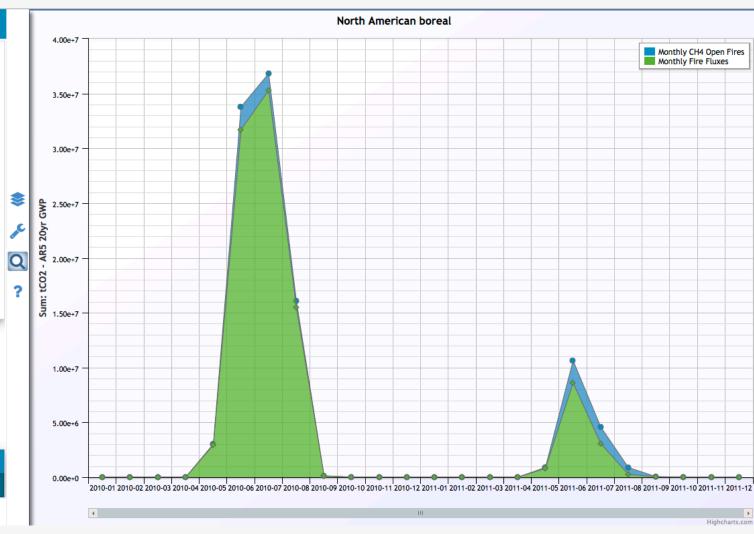


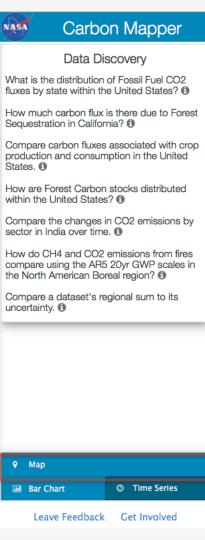


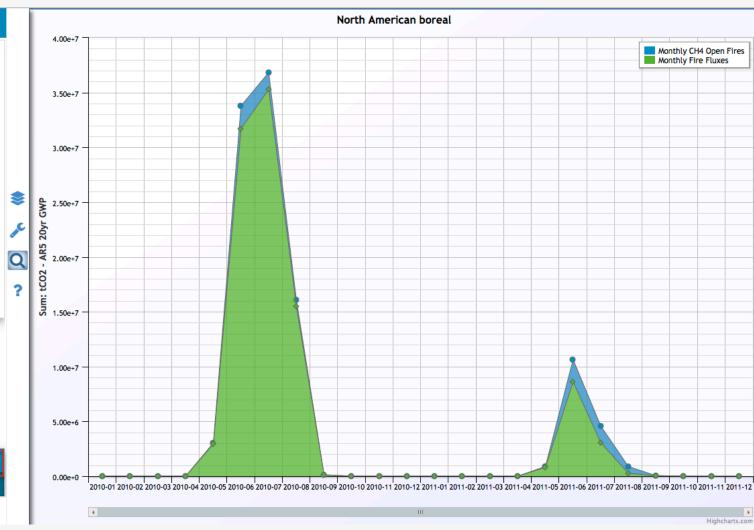
#### Carbon Mapper Data Discovery What is the distribution of Fossil Fuel CO2 fluxes by state within the United States? (1) How much carbon flux is there due to Forest Sequestration in California? 6 Compare carbon fluxes associated with crop production and consumption in the United States. 6 How are Forest Carbon stocks distributed within the United States? 6 Compare the changes in CO2 emissions by sector in India over time. ① How do CH4 and CO2 emissions from fires compare using the AR5 20yr GWP scales in the North American Boreal region? ① Compare a dataset's regional sum to its uncertainty. 6 Active Datasets ▼ ▼ Coastlines, Borders, Roads Overlays ♥ Map ▼ AGB Carbon Global ■ Bar Chart O Time Series Stock - Global Forest Carbon Stocks ▼ Land / Water Map Leave Feedback Get Involved Basemap

NASA









### Carbon Mapper Data Discovery What is the distribution of Fossil Fuel CO2 fluxes by state within the United States? 6 How much carbon flux is there due to Forest Sequestration in California? 6 Compare carbon fluxes associated with crop production and consumption in the United States. 0 How are Forest Carbon stocks distributed within the United States? Compare the changes in CO2 emissions by sector in India over time. How do CH4 and CO2 emissions from fires

NASA

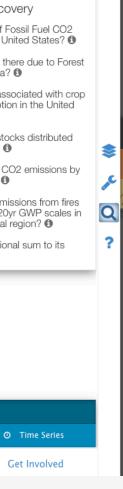
compare using the AR5 20yr GWP scales in the North American Boreal region? 1

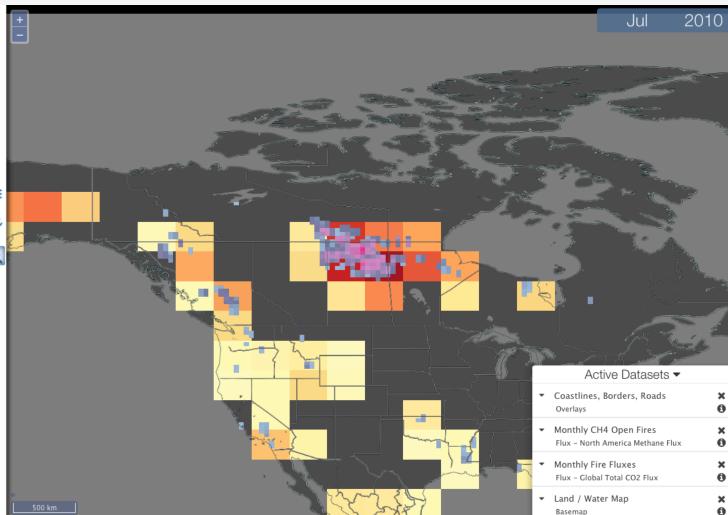
Compare a dataset's regional sum to its uncertainty. 1

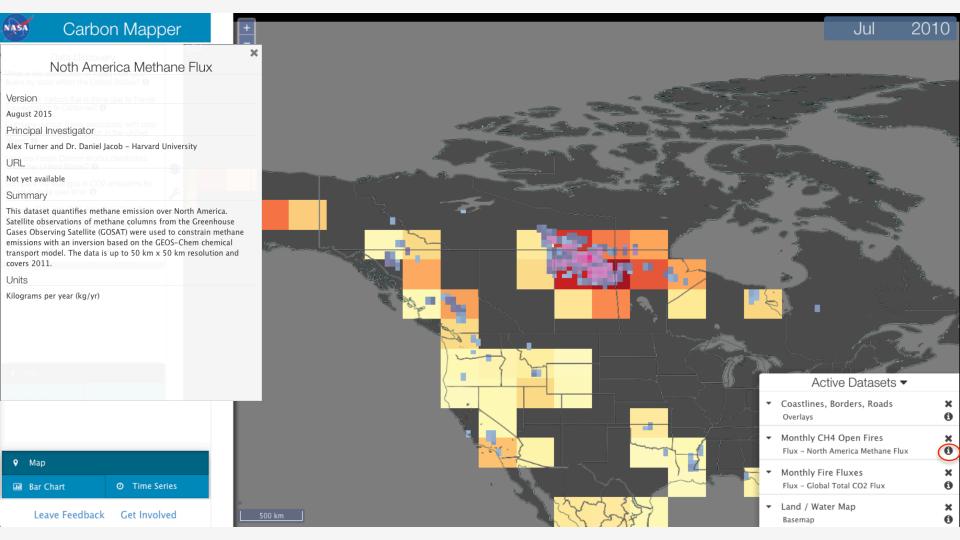
♥ Map

Bar Chart

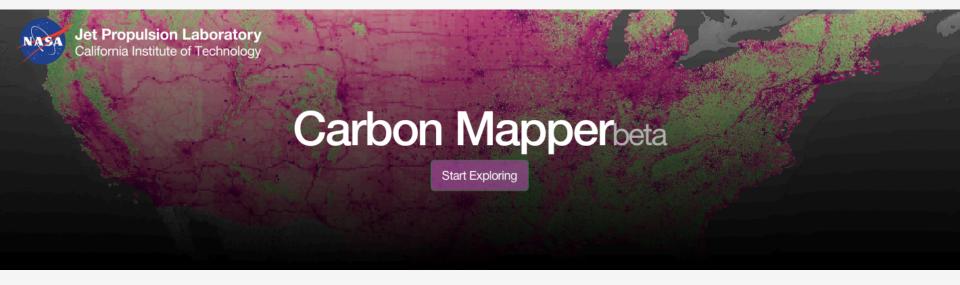
Leave Feedback

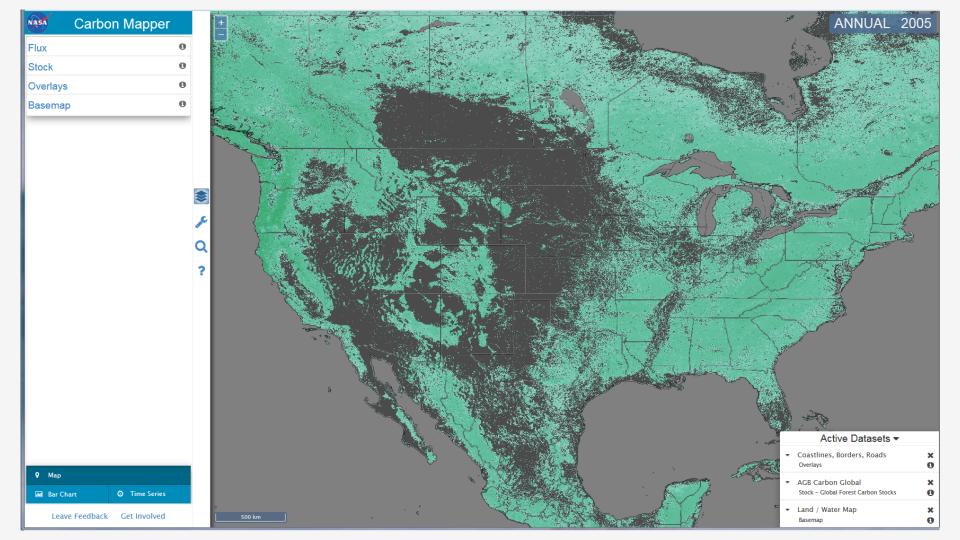


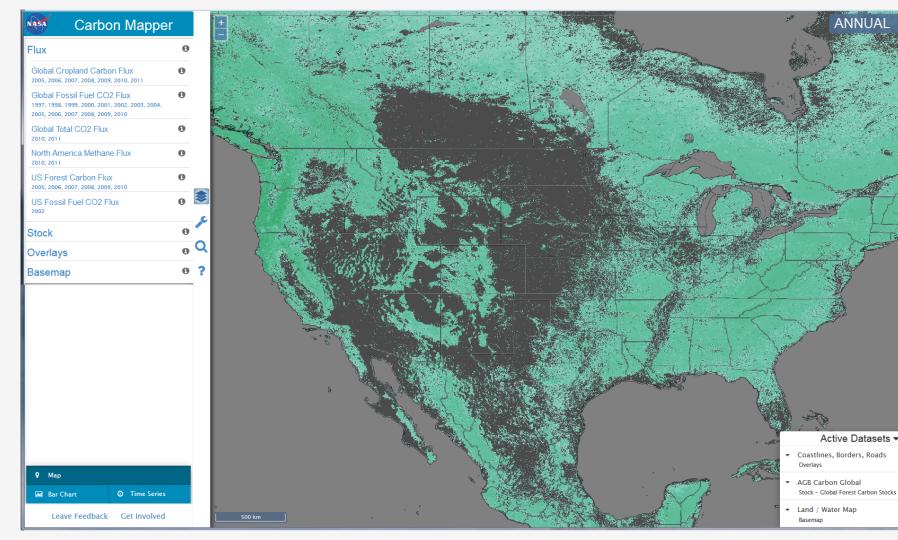




## One more example.....

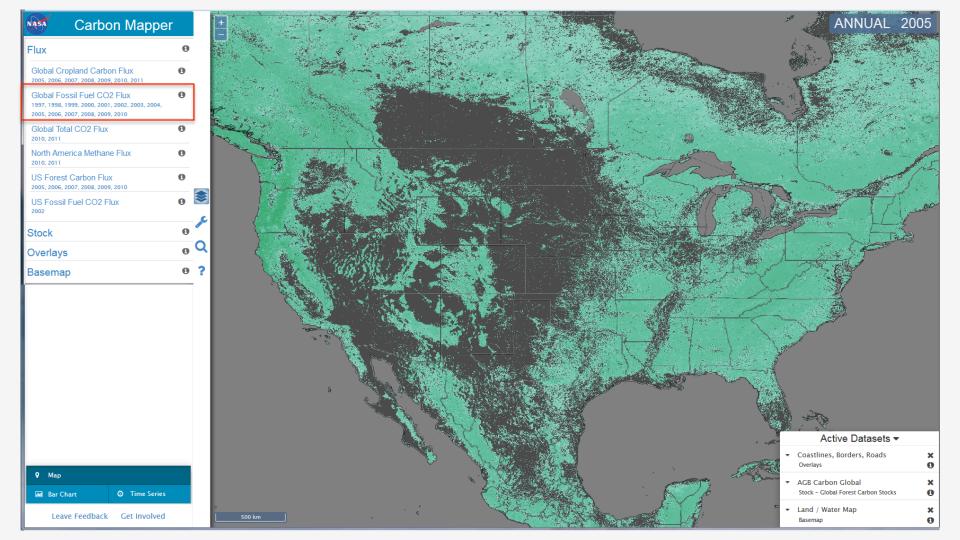


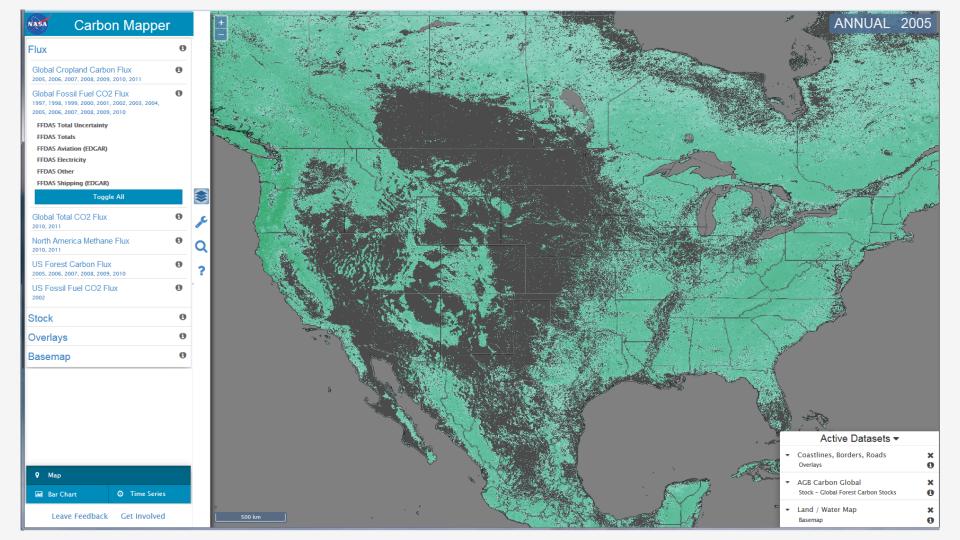


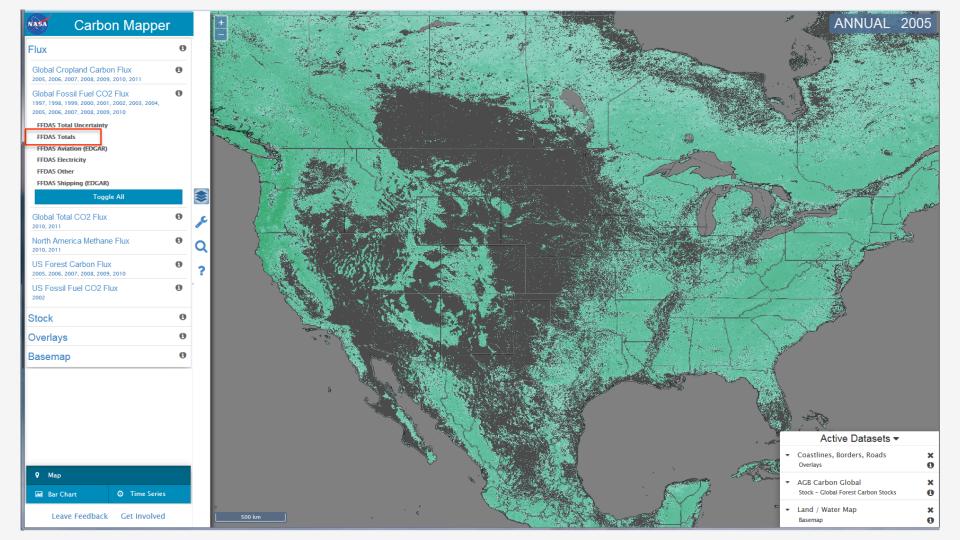


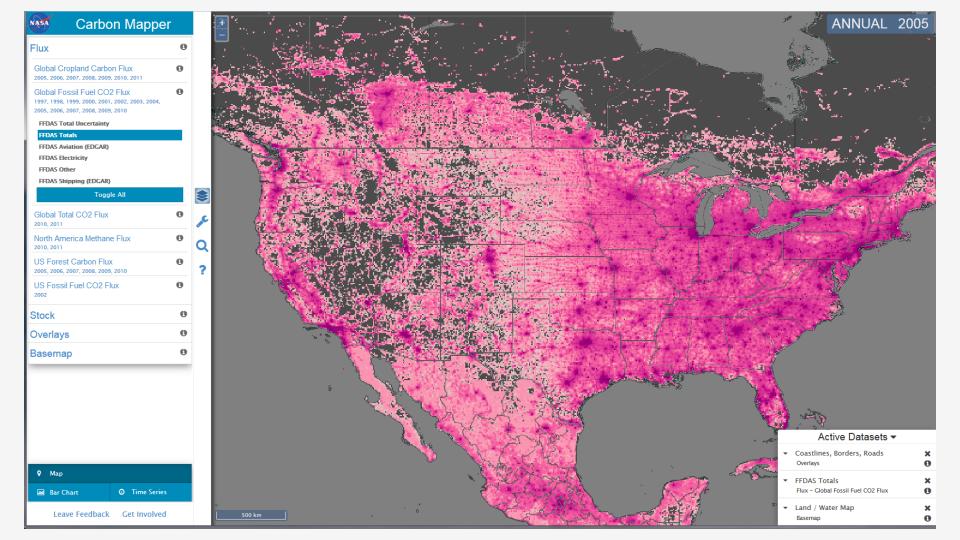
ANNUAL 2005

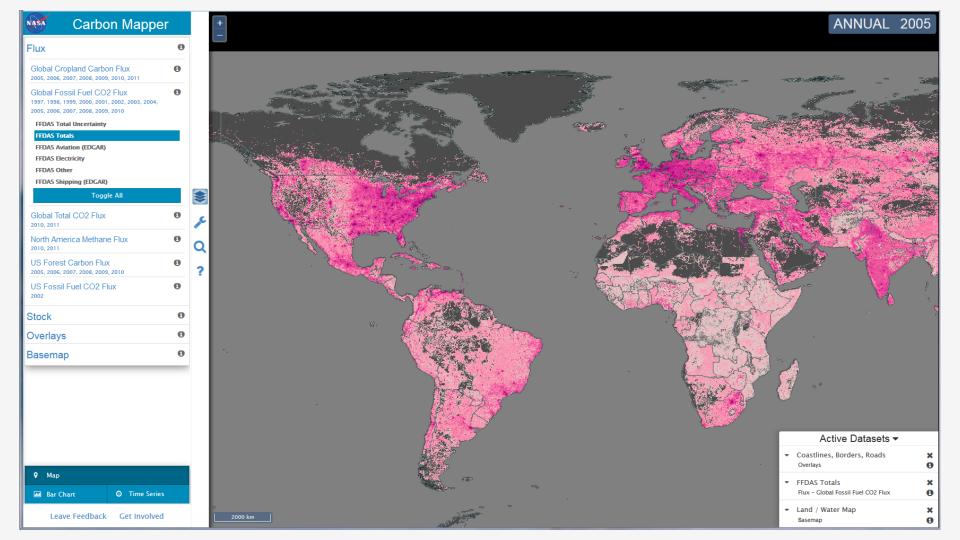
Active Datasets ▼

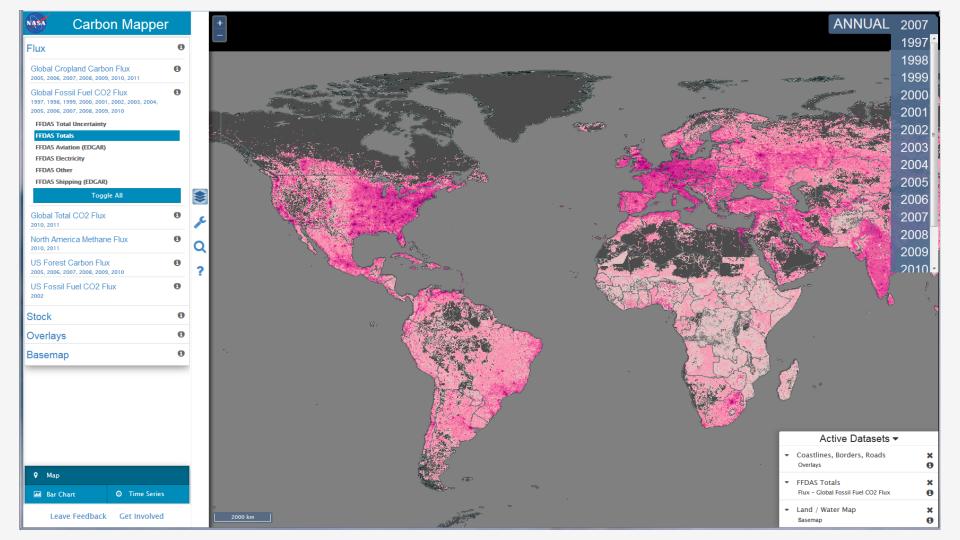


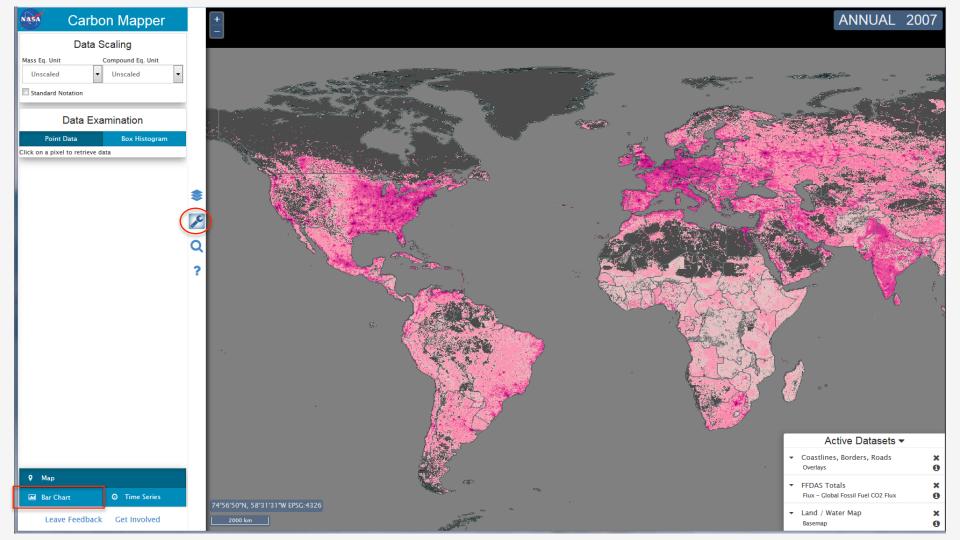


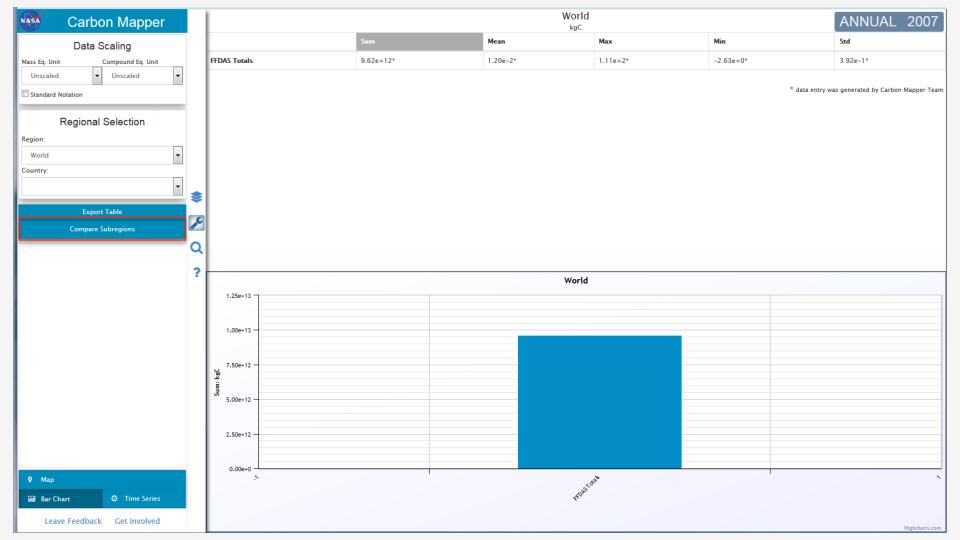


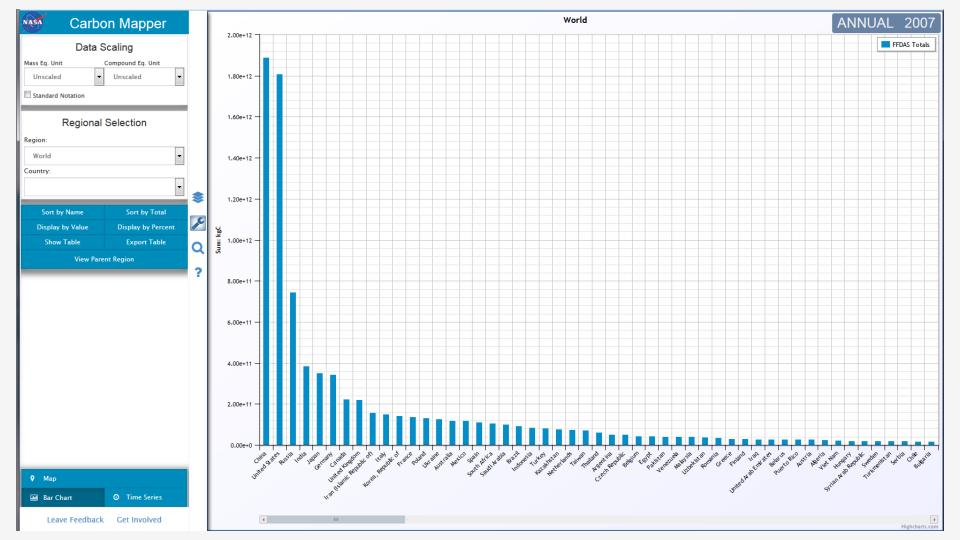












## Contacts

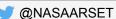
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  - Jenny Hewson (SilvaCarbon): <a href="mailto:Jhewson@conservation.org">Jhewson@conservation.org</a>
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  - Ana Prados: aprados@umbc.edu
- ARSET Website:
  - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov





Applied Remote Sensing Training

http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov



### SilvaCarbon

http://egsc.usgs.gov/silvacarbon/index.html



# Thank You

**Next Week:** 

Carbon Estimation Techniques and Methods

